

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A portable timer system comprising:  
a plurality of portable timers, each portable timer adapted to include information about a food product, and each portable timer being operatively connectable to a food device operating on the food product and operatively disconnectable from the food device operating on the food product; and  
a timer programmer adapted to program each portable timer.
2. The portable timer system of claim 1, wherein each portable timer includes a timing device.
3. The portable timer system of claim 1, wherein each portable timer includes a data storage device.
4. The portable timer system of claim 1, wherein each portable timer includes a timer computing device.
5. The portable timer system of claim 4, wherein each portable timer includes an operational software executed by the timer computing device.
6. The portable timer system of claim 1, wherein each portable timer includes a user interface.
7. A portable timer system for restaurant inventory management, the portable timer system comprising:

a plurality of portable timers, each portable timer operatively connectable to food devices in the restaurant and operatively disconnectable from the food devices in the restaurant, each portable timer adapted to include information about at least one food product of a plurality of food products operated on by the food devices; and

a computing device adapted to receive from the portable timers information about the plurality of food products and manage the information.

8. The portable timer system of claim 7, wherein the computing device is a mobile computing device.

9. The portable timer system of claim 7, further comprising a mobile computing device operatively coupled to the computing device.

10. The portable timer system of claim 7, further comprising a programming device adapted to receive and program each of the portable timers.

11. The portable timer system of claim 7, wherein the food devices and the computing device communicate by a communication network.

12. The portable timer system of claim 11, wherein the communication network is a wireless network.

13. The portable timer system of claim 7, wherein each portable timer communicates with the computing device by a communication network.

14. The portable timer system of claim 13, wherein the communication network is a wireless network.

15. The portable timer system of claim 7, wherein each portable timer includes a timing device.

16. The portable timer system of claim 7, wherein each portable timer includes a data storage device.

17. The portable timer system of claim 7, wherein each portable timer includes a timer computing device.

18. The portable timer system of claim 17, wherein each portable timer includes an operational software executed by the timer computing device.

19. The portable timer system of claim 7, wherein each portable timer includes a user interface.

20. A method of restaurant inventory management comprising:  
storing information about a food product on a portable timer;  
connecting the portable timer to a first food device, the first food device adapted to operate on the food product; and  
tracking information about the food product responsive to the first food device operating on the food product.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising updating the information on the portable timer about the food product responsive to the first food device operating on the food product.

22. The method of claim 20, further comprising transferring the food product from the first food device to a second food device, the transferring comprising:

updating the information on the portable timer based on the operation of the first food device on the food product including the time the food product has been operated on by the first food device;

transferring the food product from the first food device to the second food device, the food device adapted to operate on the food product;

disconnecting the portable timer from the first food device, the disconnecting causing the portable timer to maintain the information about the food product including the time the food product is operated on by the first food device;

connecting the portable timer to the second food device, the connecting causing the second food device to continue operation on the food product from the operation in the first food device; and

tracking the operation of the second food device on the food product, the tracking including the time the food product was operated on by the first food device and the time the food product is operated on by the second food device.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the connecting causes the second food device to receive information from the portable timer about operation of the second food device on the food product.

24. The method of claim 20, wherein the storing of information on the portable timers is provided by a programming device capable of writing information on the portable timers.

25. The method of claim 20, wherein the information stored on the portable timers includes the type of the food product being operated on by the first food device.

26. The method of claim 20, wherein the tracking comprises the portable food timer and the first food device communicating the information about the food product.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the tracking comprises updating the information on the portable timer, the updating causing the portable food timer and the first food device to communicate updated information about the food product.

28. The method of claim 20, further comprising processing the information during at least one of the storing and the tracking, the processing being performed by at least a computing device.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein at least one of the storing and the tracking is performed with the computing device by the portable timers being operationally coupled to the computing device and communicating information with the computing device by a communication network.

30. The method of claim 28, wherein at least one of the storing and the tracking is performed with the computing device by the food devices being operationally coupled to the computing device and communicating information with the computing device by a communication network.

31. The method of claim 27, wherein the processing of the information by the computing device provides restaurant operational and inventory information.

32. The method of claim 20, further comprising accumulating the information about the food products and providing restaurant operational and inventory management responsive to the accumulated information about the food products.